

Amendments to the Specification:

In the English translation document, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 line 1 before the title.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading and paragraph at page 1 line 6, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/051927, filed August 26, 2004 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10358340.8 DE filed December 12, 2003, both of the applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. --

In the English translation document, please add the section heading and paragraph at page 1 line 6, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section, as follows:

--FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for backup switching spatially separated switching systems.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 6, after the newly added FIELD OF INVENTION section, as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 19, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 1 lines 28-31, as follows:

The An object of the invention is to disclose a method for backup switching systems which ensures efficient changeover of a failed switching system to a redundancy partner in the event of a fault.

In the English translation document, please delete the paragraph at page 2 lines 1-3.

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 2 lines 27-28, as follows:

Advantageous developments of the invention are recited in the ~~sub-claims~~dependent claims.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 2 line 30, as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 3 line 9, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION--